

## Giessen MP masters myriad of martial arts

*To sharpen self-defense skills at prestigious defense academy*

By Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

A passion for the martial arts usually comes in handy for Staff Sgt. Gabriel Castillo of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 284th Base Support Battalion, in his job as a Military Policeman. Recently his job as desk sergeant with the 284th BSB Provost Marshal's Office set Castillo on track to sharpen his self-defense skills.

Castillo, desk sergeant with the Giessen PMO, was chosen by Capt. Matthew Jemmott, 284th BSB provost marshal, to attend the prestigious SIGARMS Academy in Epping, N.H., where he will expand, hone and certify his skills in a weeklong training session leading to an instructor's license.

The training includes rifle and knife defense, speed cuff (handcuffing) procedures in hostage and non-hostage situations, and personal protection tactics, he said. The course is endorsed by the Federal Law Enforcement Training Academy. It will be another milestone in strengthening martial arts skills that significantly contribute to his professional and personal life, said Castillo.

His range of martial arts tools includes tae kwon do (black belt), jujitsu (brown belt) and krav maga, the disabling martial art which until recently was known only to the Israeli Defense Forces. Castillo is also adept at karate, judo and kempo, a Chinese form of karate.

### Started learning as a child

"I began studying martial arts at the age of 6 or 7, but at 13 I started to hit it really hard," Castillo said. As a young adult he attended the Black Diamond Police Academy, a civilian police department. He subsequently worked for the Smith Investigation Corporation in Seattle, Wash., where he used those skills, he said.

After getting a taste of work in the construction business Castillo joined the Army, "because it was time for something different," and because it let him train with some of the best, he said. "I've trained for two years with the 1st Special Forces Group and the 2-75th Ranger Regiment, and our instructors were Kelly Warden, and Carlson and Hickson Gracie. I also had a chance to train with the ultimate championship winner, Dennis Hallman, for three years when I was stationed at Fort Lewis, Wash."

Castillo said he enjoys sharing his passion for martial arts and self-defense skills with others. "Since I am in Giessen I've taught more than 300 classes in my free time."

His students include Military Police officers, Criminal Investigation Division investigators and agents, German police academy instructors and German criminal police investigators in Wetzlar and civilian martial arts students. Castillo also teaches self-defense classes for women and children, and certifies all Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program volunteers.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Staff Sgt. Gabriel Castillo, 284th Base Support Battalion Provost Marshal's Office desk sergeant, practices self-defense moves with Special Agent Catalina Larkin.

The notification that his command will send him to a class at SIGARMS caught him by surprise, he said.

"I am so excited that I can go. It's going to be rough

because classes last 12-18 hours daily, but it's worth it. This class enables me to learn something new and is a good step for my law enforcement future and later on," he said.

*For the latest updates of community news and events in Giessen, Friedberg, Butzbach and Bad Nauheim visit the **www.giessen.army.mil** website*



## ASACS counselor deploys to Afghanistan

### **Dons BDUs for role in Operation Enduring Freedom**

**By Alexandra Williams**  
*284th Base Support Battalion  
Public Affairs Office*

Billy Wray, Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Service counselor at Giessen Middle-High School, has traded his civilian clothes for a Desert Combat Uniform and bid farewell to the 284th Base Support Battalion.

Wray, a major in the Army Reserve, will deploy to Afghanistan for what was expected to be 18 months with the 330th Rear Operation Center, stationed in Kaiserslautern. Originally assigned to the 3747th Multi-Function Training Brigade-Europe in Grafenwöhr, he and seven other reservists from his unit have been reassigned to the 330th ROC and to another unit in Italy that is also deploying to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Wray will serve as a civil affairs

officer. "At this point I don't know what my duties in Afghanistan will include, but whatever it will be I will do my best," he said.

Wray took leave of the Giessen school Oct. 8, but will not deploy until spring while his unit undergoes mandatory training in Kaiserslautern, he said. It will be his first deployment. "My unit was alerted during Desert Storm in 1991, but we never got activated," he said.

"I am looking forward to serving my country in that aspect too. As a contractor I am serving my country by providing support to the children and spouses of Soldiers, but now I get a chance to serve as a Soldier."

### **Family tradition**

Serving in the military is a family tradition, he said.

"My father is a decorated war hero who served in the Army and Navy in World War II and Korea. My uncle served in the Navy, and one of my nephews just returned from Iraq."



Photo by Mary Ann Ernst

Maj. Billy Wray spends some quality time with his wife Anne and their daughter Shelby before deploying.

## Reading Recovery brings joy to reading

### Helps first-graders master literacy

By Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Learning how to read is exciting for most children, but for some it becomes a painful process. As their peers progress, some experience difficulties, feel themselves falling behind and eventually lose interest in reading to the detriment of their writing skills as well.

The Reading Recovery program at Giessen Elementary School helps first-graders with reading problems catch up with their peers, said Anne Wray and Pat Sweeten, the teachers who help faltering youngsters stay on track and develop a passion for the written word. Both have undergone special training and employ strategies that help students read increasingly difficult texts and write words and stories on their own.

"Our goal is to give them a good start into literacy learning and bring them from a low to an average performance level to become independent readers," Wray said.

Reading Recovery, developed in New Zealand and since adapted throughout Department of Defense Dependents Schools, is an effective, short-term intervention that stresses one-on-one tutoring, she said.

### Eight students at a time

"The program runs for 20 weeks, and we are taking eight students during that time. In the second half of the school year we start again with another eight students, so all together we are tutoring 16 students throughout the school year," said Wray.

Students receive a daily half hour of intensive reading and writing training with the instructor. They are selected for Reading Recovery in consultation with kindergarten teachers who identify children who need extra help in learning to read, she said.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Reading Recovery teacher Pat Sweeten watches first-grader D'Andre Davis spell out a new vocabulary word.

Each class starts with the student writing words on a chalkboard to help him or her develop fluent writing skills. Then the student and teacher read a book. Teachers use a variety of books suitable for the child's stage of development

and have a certain pattern.

"We are taking the children from the known to the unknown," Wray said.

"The goal is to increase the repertoire of words and to help them recognize those words quickly," said Sweeten. "We won't help with the reading unless the child has a problem, and we show them a way to figure out the tricky parts."

To ensure progress, students reread the book introduced in the previous lesson. Writing stories is another component of Reading Recovery. "The student can use all the small words he or she knows, and we'll help with the new words," Sweeten said.

The program also stresses letter identification and word analysis.

"The student will learn to break up big words into chunks instead of reading letter for letter. Most of us have learned it this way, but it does not help the child. It's rather confusing for them. Using the chunks makes it easier for them to decode words, which is our goal," said Wray.

Phonetics is included in this segment so students can become familiar with the sound of letters and words.

Homework and parental assistance are essential to the success of the program, Wray said. "During the class the student has to think up his or her own story. We write the story on a strip of paper and cut up the words and put them in an envelope the students have to bring home to their parents. We are asking parents to take those cut up words and have their child put the story back together and read it to them a couple of times. This builds up the self-confidence."

Parents whose children enroll in Reading Recovery are always welcome to attend their classes, said both teachers.

"Most important is that parents ensure regular school attendance, have the child read familiar stories to them and observe them when they are putting the cut up story back together," Wray said.

## Community spotlight... Community spotlight

### Draper Award winners

Kudos to Company C, 2-37th Armor, for winning the 2004 Goodrich Riding Trophy, symbol of the Draper Armor Leadership Award.

### Butzbach Town Hall

A Town Hall Meeting will be held at Butzbach Elementary School Nov. 10 at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

### Veterans Day dedication

The Ready First Combat Team Fallen Soldiers Memorial will be dedicated during Veterans Day ceremonies on the Friedberg parade field Nov. 10 at 3 p.m. All are invited to attend. For details call Capt. Bomer at mil 324-3693.



### Clinic closing

The Butzbach Health Clinic will close Oct. 29 for safety training. Call mil 345-4040.

### Catholic activities

The Giessen Catholic community will celebrate Mass Nov. 1 and 2 at noon to mark All Saints Day. A Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated Nov. 24 at 7 p.m. to be followed by a pie social. Registration continues for religious education for children. Call civ (0641) 480-8762 for details. The Friedberg Catholic community will celebrate Mass for All Saints Day Nov. 1 at 5 p.m. Registration is ongoing for religious education.

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### ACS events

The Exceptional Family Member Program offers referrals, a resource library, counseling and more. Call mil 324-3465 or 343-7618 for information. Giessen ACS will host a Harvest Costume Party Oct. 29 from 1-3 p.m. Children can enjoy a costume contest, prizes and refreshments. Call civ (0641) 402-7618 to reserve a place.

### Outdoor Recreation trips

Outdoor Recreation will travel to Warner Brothers Movie World Oct. 30. Cost is \$49 for adults, \$29 for children age 4-11 and \$19 for those 3 and under. Take a trip to the Czech Republic Nov. 6. Cost is \$59. Call civ (0641) 402-8202 for details.

### Lock-in in Giessen

The Giessen Chapel Protestant community will host a lock-in Oct. 29 beginning at 7 p.m. for children and youths age 5-18. The theme will be "God Created Me," and events will include games, food and fellowship. Parent permission slips are required to attend. For details call civ (0641) 948 4966 or

(0174) 6049556.

### Halloween stories

Libraries in the 284th Base Support Battalion will host Halloween story readings for children in pre-school through third grade. Story time in Friedberg is Oct. 28 at 6:15 p.m.; in Giessen Oct. 29 at 6:15 p.m. For information call mil 343-1740.

### Oklahoma open houses

The University of Oklahoma will host open houses Nov. 9 for Soldiers, family members and civilians to explain its master's degree and PhD programs. Meet at the Giessen Education Center from 9 a.m. to noon or at the Friedberg Education Center from 1-5 p.m.

### Volunteers sought

Army Community Service seeks volunteers for positions throughout the 284th Base Support Battalion. Call Kelly Kreis at mil 324-3713 for information. Agencies that wish to advertise volunteer job openings in the ACS newsletter should forward details to her. Child and Youth Services seeks volunteers for a variety of positions. Call CLEOS at civ (0641) 402-8216 or mil 343-8216 for information.

### Respite care available

Families of Soldiers E1 through E4 are eligible for 10 hours per month of child care

free of charge through the Child and Youth Services Respite Care program. For information call civ (0641) 402-8216 or mil 343-8216.

### Community improvement advice sought

Support agency staff will conduct a Customer Contact Walkabout Oct. 27 to gather suggestions from community members on improving quality of life in the 284th Base Support Battalion. Your input is important and welcome. If you're not contacted, phone input to the Commander's Call Line at mil 343-1234.

### 'Relatively Speaking'

The Keller Theater will present the White Horse Theatre Company in performances of the comedy "Relatively Speaking" Nov. 5-6, 11-13 and 18-20. To reserve tickets call the box office Wednesday through Friday from 4:30-8 p.m. at mil 343-6515.

### Halloween teen dance

Kirch-Göns Military Lodge 132 and the Pride of Giessen Eastern Stars will host a Halloween teen dance for youths age 13-18 Oct. 29 from 7 p.m. until midnight at the Alpine Club. Tickets are \$2.50. Bring a can of food as a donation and save a dollar. Andrews Federal Credit Union will present a \$25 savings bond for the best costume.

# 284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

## Community spotlight... Community spotlight

### Boy Scout fundraiser

Boy Scout Troop No. 37 will host a Haunted House fundraiser Oct. 27-31 from 6:30-9 p.m. in Building 54 on the Giessen Depot, across from the MWR recreation center. Proceeds will go to purchase equipment and supplies for Troop 37.

### Halloween bash in Bad Nauheim

Friedberg Arts and Crafts and the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program will host a Halloween bash Oct. 31 from 5-9 p.m. at the Bad Nauheim Community Center. Everyone is invited to enjoy a spooky good time with games, pumpkin carving and face painting.

### Hearts and Hands

The Hearts and Hands community club hosts a **bingo night** every third Friday of the month from 7-8 p.m. A **wreath auction and wine tasting** for members plus one guest is scheduled for Nov. 6 starting at 6

p.m. The cost is \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. Join Hearts and Hands at the event. Child care will be provided for CLEOS registered children if reservations are made in advance by calling mil 343-8216. The club also seeks volunteers. For details call Kathy Monge at mil 343-7618 or send email to [heartsandhandscc@yahoo.com](mailto:heartsandhandscc@yahoo.com).

### AFTB instructor training

Army Community Service will conduct an Army Family Team Building instructor training class Nov. 1-2 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Nov. 3 from 9-11:30 a.m. For details call Melody Sexton at mil 343-6240.

### Fine arts exhibition

The 284th Base Support Battalion will host an art exhibit Dec. 18. Young artists age 11-18 are encouraged to enter their artwork. Submissions may not exceed 30 by 40 inches in size and artwork must not be signed. Submit entries to Youth Services by Nov. 19. For details call

Edgardo Rosales at civ (0641) 402-6129 or (06033) 73048.

### Homework tutoring

Youth Services, Building 1714 in Giessen's Dulles Housing, offers a homework tutoring program and computer lab for youths registered with YS. Van shuttle service is available for students from Giessen Elementary School at 2:25 p.m. and from Giessen Middle-High School at 2:40 p.m. Parents must sign a permission slip for children to ride the bus and pick up youths from the YS or give them permission to walk home. For details call mil 343-7028.

### Rocky Horror Night

The Woodland Club in Giessen presents Rocky Horror Night, an audience participation event, Oct. 31 starting at 10:30 p.m. The cost is \$2. Participants must be 18 or older and "The Rocky Horror Pic-

ture Show" will be screened at midnight. Participants are encouraged to bring their own props. The best overall costume will be awarded a \$250 cash prize and the best movie costume will receive a framed poster of the film.

### DA photos in Giessen

Appointments for Department of the Army, passport and chain of command photos are available at the Giessen Training Support Center Visual Information Office, Building 12 on the Giessen Depot. Passport photos are provided for official passports only. Clients should first go to the Passport Office for the appropriate work order (3903). Then call mil 343-6122 to arrange an appointment. Official photos are taken free of charge and can be taken within a few minutes.

### OCS board coming

The 284th Base Support Battalion will host an Officer Candidate School board Nov. 19 at 9 a.m. in the BSB conference room, Building 115 on the Giessen Depot. Packets must be turned in to the BSB Adjutant's Office no later than Nov. 5. For details call mil 343-8995.

### Plaque shop open

The plaque shop at Friedberg Arts and Crafts makes small, medium and large size plaques to order. Production time is roughly 10 working days. Prices vary. The shop is open Tuesday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For details call mil 324-3266.

### ESL class starting

Registration for English as a Second Language classes at the Friedberg Education Center is under way. Classes will be held Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30-8:30 p.m., from Nov. 16 to Jan. 2. Cost is \$50 including materials. For information call mil 324-3119 or civ (06031) 83119.

### Playtime meets Fridays

Parent and Me playtime takes place every Friday from 10 a.m. to noon at Friedberg ACS. For details call the Butzbach Outreach Center at civ (06033) 925 329, the Bad Nauheim Outreach Center at mil 324-3566, Friedberg ACS at mil 324-3465 or Giessen ACS at mil 343-7618.

### Youth Sports registration

Registration for youth basketball and cheerleading for children age 5-15 continues through Nov. 4. The season runs from Jan. 8 to Feb. 26. Children must register with CLEOS. The YS office seeks volunteers for a mandatory coaches clinic to be held Dec. 1 and 3 at 5 p.m. at the YS gym. A mandatory parents meeting will be held Dec. 2 at 6 p.m. at the Alpine Club on the Giessen Depot. For details call mil 343-6969.

### Bulk trash pickup

The next bulk trash pickup date for all housing areas in the 284th Base Support Battalion is Nov. 12. Do not place bulk items outside until the evening before the pickup.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

### Helping out a dummy

Giessen Berufsfeuerwehr firefighters demonstrate how to extricate a car crash victim during an open house Oct. 8 in support of National Fire Prevention Week.



# 414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

## Community notes . . . Community notes

### Story time, book clubs

Hanau's Bookmark at the Wolfgang Shopping Center holds a children's story time every Saturday from noon to 1 p.m. The book store is also open to members of book clubs who wish to hold their meetings at the facility. For more information call Ralph Henderson at civ (06181) 573 467.

### AVID tutor sought

Hanau High School seeks an Advanced Via Individual Determination tutor. Applicants should be proficient in math and English and be interested in receiving training which will be provided by the school district. Call Ms. Webb-Griffin at civ (06181) 9069 923, Mrs. Carman at civ (06181) 9069 910 or stop by the school for more information about the job.

### Exceptional Family Member Program highlights

A new Parenting Children with Special Needs class will be offered Nov. 8 and 10 from 6-8 p.m. as a two-part series the second Monday and Wednesday of each month at the Wolfgang Outreach Center in Building 514. Learn tips to help manage difficult behaviors. The next EFMP Support Network Meeting will be held Nov. 22 from 4-5 p.m. at the Wolfgang Outreach Center. A class on Parenting Children with ADD/ADHD will follow from 5-6 p.m. Learn ways to teach your child responsibility, good behavior and more. The Exceptional Family Member Program seeks families or individuals to give a little of their time to deserving families. There are caregivers in our community who are caring for adult family members who have special needs. These caregivers often spend day and night caring for their family members. Respite Care offers these caregivers a chance to take a break, run errands or enjoy some quiet time. If you or someone you know would like to participate in a program that

provides relief for these families call Jane Montanaro at mil 322-9275 or civ (06181) 88-9275. If you are seeking respite care for your child with special needs contact Carol Green at mil 322-9144 or civ (06181) 88-9144.

### Marriage enrichment seminar

Married Soldiers and their spouses can learn to communicate better, manage conflicts and spend quality time together during a free marriage enrichment seminar, "Building Strong and Ready Families," Oct. 29-31, Nov. 3-5 or Nov. 18-20 at the Sauerland Stern Hotel in Willingen. Meals and accommodation are free. Call Chaplain Green at mil 322-7579 or Chaplain Tran at mil 322-7013 for information.

### Haunted House

The Soldiers, family members and friends of Company A, 3-58th Aviation Regiment, are invited to visit the unit's Haunted House Oct. 28-29 from 7-10 p.m. and Oct. 30-31 from 7 p.m. to midnight in Building 1322 on Fliegerhorst Kaserne. Entry donation for adults and children ages 3 and older is \$3; children under 3 are free; however the organizers do not recommend bringing small children to the Haunted House. Tickets will be sold at the door. Refreshments will be available while customers are waiting to enter. Call 1st Lt. Riedel or Sgt. Rodriguez at mil 322-7782 for information.

### ACS professional development classes

Army Community Service offers an **Employment Orientation** Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. A **Dress for Success** seminar will be held Nov. 10, an **Interview Techniques** seminar Nov. 11 and a **Resume Workshop** Nov. 17. All classes take place from 10-11:30 a.m. in Building 9, Room 104 on Pioneer Kaserne. For information call mil 322-9191. ACS has 13 computers available for you to create your resume and search the Internet for vacancies.



Photo by Karl Weisel

Ronneburg Castle features various special events in the coming weeks. See below.

All computers are equipped with Internet access, Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Visit ACS weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Life in a castle

The Ronneburg Castle, located between Langenselbold and Büdingen, features a Halloween evening throughout the castle Oct. 30 starting at 7 p.m., a depiction of medieval life Nov. 6-7 and a historical Christmas Market Nov. 27-28, Dec. 4-5, 11-12 and 18-19.

### American Red Cross class

The American Red Cross offers a **Professional Community First Aid and Safety** course Nov. 17 (deadline for signup is Nov. 15). The course includes adult, child and infant cardio pulmonary resuscitation, first aid basics, automatic external defibrillation essentials, two-man rescue and prevention of disease transmission. Both classes will be held from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the American Red Cross in Building 4 (third floor) on Pioneer Kaserne. Cost is \$35 per student and must be paid by the class signup deadline. Call Jay or Sharon at mil 322-1760/8205 or civ (06181) 88-1760/

8205.

### Monthly Praise Fest

The Fliegerhorst Contemporary Service hosts a community praise fest Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. at the chapel on Fliegerhorst Kaserne. The monthly praise fest, usually held the first Sunday of the month, is an inter-denominational event featuring contemporary-style Christian music. The entire community is invited to come out and enjoy a community worship experience in song. Child watch is provided for children through age 3. For information call Chaplain (Maj.) Arley Longworth at mil 322-9609

or civ (06181) 88-9609.

### IACS in effect on many 414th BSB gates

The automated Installation Access Control System is in use on many gates in Hanau. Adjusting to the new system may result in delays. People who have not registered should expect considerable delays as they must be signed into the IACS computer manually. If you have not yet registered, visit the IACS office in Building 21 on Pioneer Kaserne.

### Family Fun Festival

Awana and Hanau Protestant Women of the Chapel cosponsor the third annual Family Fun Festival on Halloween night, Oct. 31, from 6-8 p.m. at Argonner Elementary School on Old Argonner Kaserne. Enjoy games, candy, prizes, costumes and fun for the entire family. This year's theme is "Knights of the Round Table." Come dressed in your best medieval costume. Candy donations are appreciated. They can be dropped off at Argonner Elementary. Volunteers are also needed. Call Isabel Allen at civ (06181) 9065 921.



Photo by Karl Weisel

### Getting to school safely

Going to and from the bus stop is the riskiest part of riding school buses in Europe, said DoDDS-Europe officials. Teaching children not to cross the street in front of or behind the bus could save their lives. Other safety tips include getting to know a child's route to and from the bus stop, showing children how to go safely to and from their bus stop and stressing good behavior on the bus. Report any problems immediately to the school bus office so that they can be corrected, officials added.

## Survey to rate garrison quality of life

**Commentary by Lt. Col. Amy L. Ehmann**  
414th Base Support Battalion commander

### Taking the pulse of the community

The 414th Base Support Battalion is breaking new ground in improving the front door services in the Hanau military community. The command has teamed with the International City/County Management Association to conduct a comprehensive quality of life survey of community residents using the National Citizen Survey.



Knowing how military personnel rate the quality of garrison life is as important for the commander charged with providing a viable community as it is for a chief executive officer to know what customers think about the quality of their refrigerator, car or telephone service. What makes this survey unique is its ability to benchmark the quality of life in Army garrisons against similar-sized civilian communities in the United States.

Understanding how garrison support stacks up against the services provided by civilian counterparts is valuable data that can help drive management performance as well as process improvement.

Dick Davis, 414th BSB deputy garrison commander, came up with the idea of conducting a survey that could benchmark results against other communities.

“Improving community services is the goal of every Army garrison,” Davis said. “Soldiers and their families deserve the best possible support we are able to provide. We want them to feel at home in their military communities overseas and have access to public services equal to or better than those in the stateside communities from which they came.”

Davis noted that the survey was a means of providing quality assurance for garrison services. “We are measuring how satisfied our residents are with our services and then comparing our results against the results of other communities that have participated in the survey. We’ll know from the survey results if our services are measuring up to what our civilian counterparts are providing. This in turn will help us focus our strategic plan on improving services that our customers deem important to them,” he said.

Taking the pulse of the community has little meaning without knowing what pulse rate is too high and what is too low. That’s why the comparative information provided by this survey is so critical. We don’t know what is good or bad without a comparison to gauge the goodness or badness. The survey will help us determine if “good” is good enough.

### The National Citizen Survey

The National Citizen Survey is a general survey of resident attitude about local quality of life, quality of service delivery, resident activity, resident demography and local policy significance. It provides the vehicle through which the voices of those who are the typical recipients of public

services are joined with those who usually chart the direction of these services. The survey offers garrison managers perspectives on service delivery and community quality that cannot be deduced from records of complaints, Interactive Customer Evaluation comments or Town Hall Meetings.

The survey contains a base set of questions and some tailored specifically for the Hanau community. The core questions focus on quality of life, quality of services, community engagement, perceptions of safety and local policy, as well as demographic characteristics.

For example some questions target what residents think about community services such as child care, mail delivery and street repair as well as quality of life on base issues such as sense of community and opportunities for recreation or shopping. The results provided include an analysis of data collected in the form of tables and graphs, and comparisons to the results from other communities within the survey database. The database contains the results from citizen surveys conducted in over 300 jurisdictions in the United States. These are public opinion polls answered by more than 250,000 residents around the country intended to represent over 40 million Americans.

The survey is scheduled to be mailed out in November. If you are one of the randomly selected residents to receive it, please take the time to complete the survey. Your feedback will have a direct impact on the way we do business in Hanau and the quality of services provided.



## Air defenders share partnership

### Activities underscore close German-American relationship

By Capt. James Stegall

69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Public Affairs Office

"Today was the opening day of Oktoberfest and we are here," said 1st Lt. Christoph Kohlweyer, of the German 23rd Surface to Air Missile Group, "so you know how much we wanted to fire the M16."

Kohlweyer and 19 of his 3rd Squadron airmen traveled three hours from Manching, near Munich, to fire on the M16A2 qualification range during the 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, range density exercise at the Grafenwöhr Training Area in September.

The invitation to qualify on the M16A2 rifle, made by Capt. Walid Nasr, Battery D commander, continued a friendship between the two Patriot missile units that began when 5-7th ADA Soldiers took part in the German Sports Badge competition in August.

"I told them that the battalion was holding a range density and wanted to return the favor," said Nasr. "I was really happy when Lt. Kohlweyer accepted."

Upon arrival Kohlweyer and his airmen were given a tour of the battalion operations center by Maj. Shana Peck, battalion operations officer. Capt. Hans Nyhaus, assistant operations officer, briefed the battalion's mission and the various weapons ranges the battalion was conducting on the training area. He also explained the M16A2 qualification standards to the group.

"It's a tremendous opportunity to be able to train with Soldiers from another country as well as a different service. One thing we both have in common is the importance of training basic combat skills, and qualifying on individual weapons is definitely at the heart of those skills," said Peck.



Photo by Capt. J. Adam Falk

Sgt. Anthony Kinzer, a range safety observer for Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 5-7th Air Defense Artillery, helps Staff Sgt. Michael Nundel of the German 23rd Surface to Air Missile Group qualify with the M16A2 in Grafenwöhr.

The airmen received primary marksmanship instruction from Sgt. Jacinto Sanchez of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, and 1st Sgt. Lawrence Ellison of Battery D. The airmen took to the M16A2 quickly, but expressed surprise at the differences between the U.S. rifle and their own standard-issue weapon. Sanchez explained the fundamentals of marksmanship, and each firer was able to practice on the laser simulator.

Once on the range each firer was assigned a range safety person and field zeroed his weapon using the 50 meter target. Following the command from the tower, the airmen began scanning their lanes and knocking down the pop-up targets.

According to Maj. Kyle Kolthoff, battal-

ion executive officer, the airmen were very motivated about the range.

"They were excited about winning the U.S. Marksmanship Badge," Kolthoff said. "It's a new experience for them—they weren't used to the speed of the targets."

The new weapon and unfamiliar range were small obstacles to many of the German guests.

Sgt. Anthony Kinzer, a Headquarters and Headquarters Battery range safety official, was impressed with their marksmanship. Halfway through the first target set, he shouted, "My guy can shoot."

"All I had to do was tell him to fire lower, and he adjusted his fire and started knocking down the three-hundred meter targets. That

was amazing," said Kinzer.

After a long day on the range, Kinzer said that watching the motivated German airmen show so much excitement about the chance to fire the M16A2, and do it so well, recharged his own motivation.

"They picked up the M16A2 really quickly," said Staff Sgt. Jason Leggett, non-commissioned officer in charge of the M16A2 qualification range. "Obviously they weren't used to the M16. Range operations were a little difficult for them, and they were surprised that each of our Soldiers was assigned his or her own weapon. But mostly they were ecstatic. They really liked it."

Leggett said the field zero caught a lot of the airmen by surprise, but they fired very well considering they didn't have the opportunity to do a true zero.

Range safeties were also able to talk with the airmen. Many compared gear and ideas about weapons training.

"They really liked our protective masks," Leggett said. "They told us many of their masks don't have drinking tubes built-in."

When each firing order was finished, the airmen reluctantly left the range and then waited anxiously to hear the results.

Kolthoff noted the many similarities between the German airmen and American Soldiers. "As the scores were read, you could see them ribbing each other and cheering just like U.S. Soldiers would," he said. "Sgt. Kinzer's airman (Staff Sgt. Michael Nundel) had the highest score of 33 (out of 40 targets). That's excellent with a field zero."

Thirteen of 19 firers qualified on the first attempt, with three earning Sharpshooter Badges. By the end of the day, all of the German guests were qualified on the M16A2.

Kolthoff said plans are being made for another German Sports Badge competition in the near future.

## Kids Korner offers play haven for youngsters

By David Ruderman

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

The Kids Korner on Hanau's Wolfgang Shopping Center has become a haven for frazzled parents over the past several months. Opened June 16 in the former Illusions Roller Rink building, it became the local place to let the children run wild for a while as parents worked out strategies for hanging on through the end of the 1st Armored Division's extended tour in Iraq.

The single large interior houses a soft playground, a padded two-story jungle gym where youngsters up to age 12 can climb, jump, swing, crawl and slide safely to their heart's content—or at least till mom or dad insist they put their shoes back on "because we're going now."

There are also a wide variety of

traditional diversions such as ski ball and pool, and video games for children of differing ages and for adults. Many of the games return prize tickets depending on how well the player scores. The tickets can be redeemed for a range of prizes.

Though patronage peaked over the summer, the Kids Korner is still pulling them in said facility manager William Shull. "I'd say maybe 40 during the week and I'd say maybe 100 on the weekend. Since school started it's died down," he said.

Parents should keep it in mind as a rainy day alternative to keeping children cooped up at home.

In addition to serving as a safety valve for families, the Kids Korner also offers birthday party packages that range from \$6-12 per child. Parties are held in one of two party rooms which are for rent inside the facility. Discounts apply for week-

day events. Call the Kids Korner for details.

Shull said the facility has a laser tag system on order and should have it installed by the end of the year. In the meantime the Kids Korner is gearing up for a number of Halloween bashes for children of all ages.

A Haunted House will be held Oct. 29 and 30 from 3-5 p.m. for children age 3-9 and from 5:30-7:30 p.m. for children age 10-14. The Haunted House will also host youths age 15-18 Oct. 29 from 8-10 p.m.

In cooperation with Youth Services a Haunted House and Teen Horror Bash with a DJ will take place Oct. 30 from 8 p.m. to midnight. Youths in grades six through 12 are invited. The cost for all events above is \$3 per person.

A Costume Party will take place Oct. 31 from 2-4 p.m. for children up to 9 years old, and from 5-7 p.m. for

youths 10-18. Admission is \$2. Prizes will be awarded for the funniest, scariest and most creative costume.

The Kids Korner is open

Wednesday to Friday from 3-8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 8 p.m. Call civ (06181) 88-9013 or mil 322-9013 for information.



Photo by David Ruderman

Youngsters go slipping and sliding on the indoor soft playground at the Kids Korner, located at the Wolfgang Shopping Center.



# 414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

## Hanau engineers train in Kuwait

### Before making move into Iraq

By Dennis Johnson  
130th Engineer Brigade Public Affairs Office

"All equipment and personnel made it safely to Camp Spearhead at the Kuwaiti port," said 565th Engineer Battalion commander, Lt. Col. Jose Ramos.

One hundred and 51 Soldiers of the 502nd Engineer Company flew from Rhein-Main Air Force Base Sept. 13 for their second deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom. The company moved from the port to Camp Buehring in the central region of Kuwait, formerly known as Camp Udairi, for additional training and to prepare themselves and their equipment for the convoy into Iraq. "Camps change names as fast as units change out," said Ramos. "But life isn't too bad there. No one's complaining about the food. It's the only place [in the region] where you can get a stateside-style

pizza. And if you don't have a good physical training program in the desert you can even gain weight."

The 502nd Engineer Company was slated to join the 420th Engineer Group which is the theater-level engineer group for Combined Joint Task Force 7 in Iraq. "The Deuce is one of the best combat ready units," said Ramos. "About 70 percent are veterans of OIF 1."

### Prepare to convoy

Before moving into Iraq the 502nd Soldiers had plenty to keep them busy. They received all their equipment from the port and moved it to Camp Buehring. There they checked over their vehicles in preparation for convoying across the border into Iraq.

The Soldiers in Kuwait had some new personal gear to organize as well. They've received what's called the Rapid Fielding Initiative issue. This is additional gear valued at about \$1,200 to make their assignment in the desert a little more tolerable. "Soldiers had been buy-



Soldiers of Hanau's 502nd Engineer Company practice for urban operations at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, before deploying into Iraq to link up with the 420th Engineer Group.



Soldiers of the 502nd Engineer Company practice a medical evacuation during their temporary stay in Kuwait before moving on to Iraq.

ing themselves, usually online, better quality boots than those issued by the Central Issue Facility," said Ramos.

"A lot of Soldiers had been buying goggles to protect their eyes from the desert sand, the Camel-back hydration system, expensive T-shirts and socks that wick away moisture to help keep them cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. Army officials responded after seeing Soldiers willing to open their own wallets for better gear. Somebody has asked the question, 'how can we make your life better?' and this is a \$1,400 solution."

Company commander Capt. Joshua Stringer led a reconnaissance of the post in Iraq where the 502nd Engineers were to be based

and found all new billets for the Soldiers — "nothing like OIF 1 where we were living on our trucks in the 'moon dust,'" said one Soldier. The 502nd Soldiers will be housed in trailers that sleep just two to a room with beds, wall lockers, night stands and air conditioning.

### Live-fire training

While in Kuwait the 502nd Engineers also participated in 10 days of exercises that included Convoy Live-fire Training similar to the one they completed at the Grafenwöhr Training Area in August.

They've practiced their marksmanship on ranges for the M-16, MK-19, M203 and the 50-caliber machine gun. Additional exercise included combative training, Impro-

vised Explosive Device training, first-aid classes, training in the use of the Global Positioning System and Military Operations in Urban Terrain training.

"This is just one more opportunity for the Soldiers to sharpen their battle-ax," said Ramos.

With the training completed and all the equipment in place, the 502nd Engineer Company was battle-ready as they convoyed into the next phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Now that the engineers have moved into Iraq, the ones left at home have heightened sensibilities for the news from the Middle East. "The stress here will go up," said Ramos. "Every time you hear about an explosion, you wonder."

### During National Disability Awareness Month

## Dispelling myths about people with disabilities

By Jane Montanaro  
Exceptional Family Member Program specialist

October is National Disability Awareness Month, and I want to know — would you pass the test?

I'm talking about a test on what people with disabilities can do?

Read on to learn more about the amazing things people have accomplished.

The following is an excerpt from the Office of Disability Employment Policy.

**Assumption:** A person with mental retardation cannot be trained to perform a job as well as an employee without a disability. **Fact:** Over two-thirds of the 4,000 participants in Pizza Hut, Inc.'s "Jobs Plus Program" are people with mental

retardation. The current turnover rate among these employees is 20 percent, compared with a much higher percentage rate among employees without disabilities.

**Assumption:** An individual with a psychiatric disability cannot work in a stressful environment where tight timelines have to be met. **Fact:** Everyone perceives stress differently and responses vary. Some individuals with psychiatric disabilities perform effectively in jobs that require specific timelines and structure.

**Assumption:** It is unbelievable that a person with a double amputation can compete with the world's fastest 100-meter dash runners. **Fact:** The world record is 9.9 seconds. A runner who is a double amputee ran the dash in 11.76 seconds, just 1.8 seconds off the world mark.

**Assumption:** People with severe disabilities can't compete in heavy duty weightlifting activities. **Fact:** A person with cerebral palsy has bench pressed weights exceeding 500 pounds.

**Assumption:** It is unlikely a man whose right leg was amputated six inches above the knee can perform duties of a warehouseman that require loading, lifting, bending and delivering supplies to various sections as needed. **Fact:** A person with this type of amputation was hired to work in a paper warehouse. He performed the job without any modification. He worked out so well the company moved him up to operating heavy equipment, including a log stacker, where he climbed ladders and large machinery without any problems.